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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,036	07/23/2001	Joseph B. Kejha	JBK -10	3738

7590 07/07/2003
JOSEPH B. KEJHA
1022 FREDERICK Rd.
MEADOWBROOK, PA 19046

EXAMINER

CHANEY, CAROL DIANE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1745

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,036

Applicant(s)

KEJHA ET AL.

Examiner

Carol Chaney

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Specification

Claims 9-14 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 9-14 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kejha, US Patent 5,443,602 (the '602 patent).

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The '602 patent discloses a method for coating a current collector with cathode material. (Column 2, lines 5-7.) As shown in Fig. 4, a web (11), which may be a "desired current collector", travels into a dip tank (37) and vertically upward through a solidification chamber (43). (Note column 3, lines 50-55 and column 4, lines 46-56.) The current collectors described in US Patent Application serial number 08/281,011 encompass the "metal grid", "expanded metal foil" and "perforated metal foil" of the instant claims because the current collectors described in US Patent Application serial number 08/281,011 include thin layers of metal and hence are considered metal foils.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-8 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kejha '602 patent in view of Andersen et al., US Patent 6,280,879.

As discussed above, the '602 patent discloses applicants' instant invention essentially as claimed, with the exception that the '602 patent does not disclose application of a primer material to a current collector prior to dip-coating the current collector.

With regards to claims 5, 6, and 19, Andersen et al. teach that current collector foils can be protected from highly reactive and corrosive electrode and electrolyte

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materials by coating the current collectors with primer. (Column 5, lines 27-32.) Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the primer disclosed by Andersen et al. in the method disclosed in the '602 patent in order to protect current collectors from reactive and corrosive materials.

With regards to claims 7 and 8, Andersen et al. teach an electrode paste having solvent in the range of 20-88 % by weight, binder in the range of 1-10% by weight, active material in the range of 25-50 % by weight, and carbon black in the range of 2-10% by weight. PVDF is a preferred binder, and ketones and N-methyl-pyrrolidone are preferred solvents. (Column 7, lines 17-65.) Adjustment of the boiling point/evaporation rate of the solvent and the viscosity of the solvent are taught as critical, and thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a combination of solvents to adjust vapor pressure, etc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the electrode paste mixtures taught by Andersen et al. with an electrode using the primer taught by Andersen et al. because the two components part of the Andersen et al. invention.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following disclose aspects of manufacturing thin lithium batteries:

Gozdz et al. US Patent 5,554,459 A

Kejha US Patent 5,529,707 A

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Guindy et al. US Patent 5,961,671 A

Iijima et al. US Patent 6,423,105 B1

Tsuji et al. US Patent 6,432,579 B1

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol Chaney whose telephone number is (703) 305-3777. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 703-308-2383. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Carol Chaney
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1745

cc
June 28, 2003